

Questar Instruction Books

The earliest Questar Instruction was apparently not a book at all but a single tri-fold piece of paper with the basic instructions listed on it. This sheet shows all the basic functions and refers the user to the Questar 'White' Book for more information on the care and use of the Questar.

Sun Filter is applied by inserting two of the three G-rings into groove of lens retainer ring and pushing until third G-ring drops into place. Filter works in any position. Rotate filter slightly after attaching to be sure it is securely held. To remove, push one G-ring toward optical axis until it disengages and filter can be lifted out. Being finder mirror aside before using sun filter, and locate sun by east shadow of telescope on table. The filter transmission of one part in fifty thousand was calculated for observing comfort in the Middle West and North Atlantic States. In regions of greater solar brilliance, further light reduction may be desirable and can be accomplished by placing some sort of filter material, for example, the plastic polaroid sheet from movie 3-D spectacles, over exit pupil leaving eyepiece.

Axial Rotation Adjustment Screws. To increase or decrease tension.

Altitude or Declination Circle, graduated in degrees north or south declination from celestial equator, which is zero. Note matching declination lines on star chart every ten degrees.

Clamp in altitude or declination. Turn clockwise to release, counterclockwise to clamp. Use only gentle force at all times-- not much twist of knob is required to pull the stainless steel disc firmly against casting. Examine this action, noting how little pressure it needs to clamp firmly. This knob is smaller than slow-motion knob on other arm for recognition by touch in total darkness. Use clamp to hold barrel vertical before putting Questar in case. Useful also to maintain any altitude setting, or to offset the weight of an accessory.

Right Ascension Circle or Azimuth Circle. Driven by electric motor when used. To set, place thumb on one on each side and turn. To put into step with heavens, put Questar into polar equatorial form with tube vertical at 90° altitude, then set up on legs. Adjust leg and right along tube at Polaris until reasonably close. Now put tube into normal position, pick up a known object and estimate its R.A. from star chart. Turn R.A. circle with thumb until pointer is on correct R.A. with object in telescope. All stars will now be "in step" as shown on star chart circle, and R.A. circle acts like celestial clock.

Star Chart. When facing south in early evening with tube pointed toward celestial equator (approximately half-way to zenith) turn chart to date and it will correspond to heavens. Right Ascension and Declination of some 365 major stars are shown in six magnitudes, with alpha, beta and gamma of most constellations.

The Questar booklet should be consulted frequently for detailed instructions on how to use and care for the instrument. It is hoped that the section on "What to expect of a small telescope" will be most carefully considered and followed for the best possible performance under widely varying conditions.

Eyepiece, 3-Lens Erle Type, whose field is 75° and which magnifies 30 diameters, or fifty when amplifier is used. Be sure this eyepiece is attached when putting Questar into its case. The larger 40x eyepiece is too big, and hits the case, so carry it in its pouch on the case door. Focusing adjustment is only to focus finder-- main telescope focusses by knob below. Adjust eyepiece first in finder and leave it so set unless another object is sought at another distance.

Eyepiece Knurled Ring. Always attach or dismount eyepiece by grasping this narrow ring. Never use the focusing part above, which is easily damaged by twisting at ends of travel.

Amplifier Lens Control Lever. Flip to vertical, use lens, and back out focusing knob about 3 turns to refocus at the higher power. Flip lever left to disengage lens, and refocus at lower power by turning focusing knob back in about 3/4 turn. Note that finder will not work at all until lens disengaged, so when finder fails to work, the amplifier lever for correct left position. Power amplifying lens may be somewhat increased where required by elevating eyepiece to upper limit. If it is well to remember that professionals try also to use lower powers, which give greater contrast and brilliance of image. The use of this negative achromat gives you the highest powers with the increased efficiency and high eyepoint comfort of fine 13 mm eyepiece of extraordinarily wide field and freedom from microscopic dust aberrations. Extends effective focal length to beyond 84" with superb clarity.

Finder Control Lever. Flip down to right for low power (A and B) wide-field views in vertical eyepiece. First center object in finder field, then flip to vertical position for high powers. Work low and note how it shifts existing prism. If finds fails to work, amplifying lens lever will be found to be vertical instead of tilted to left.

Cap is shown here closing axial eyepiece attachment hole. For inserted images and utmost efficiency use eyepiece axially here after moving prism aside with finder control lever.

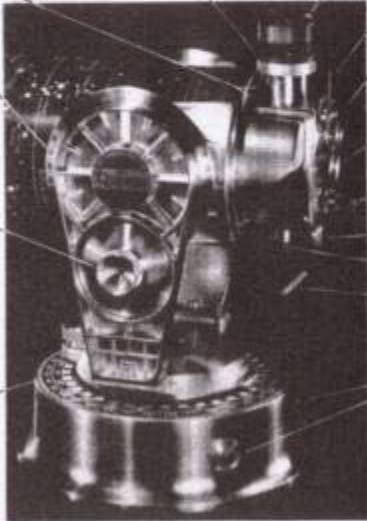
Focusing Knob. Infinity setting about two turns on distance of object in focus indicated by rearward a tension of shaft. Screw in before turning to zenith.

Finder Mirror Support is malleable, can be bent back into alignment if accidentally displaced.

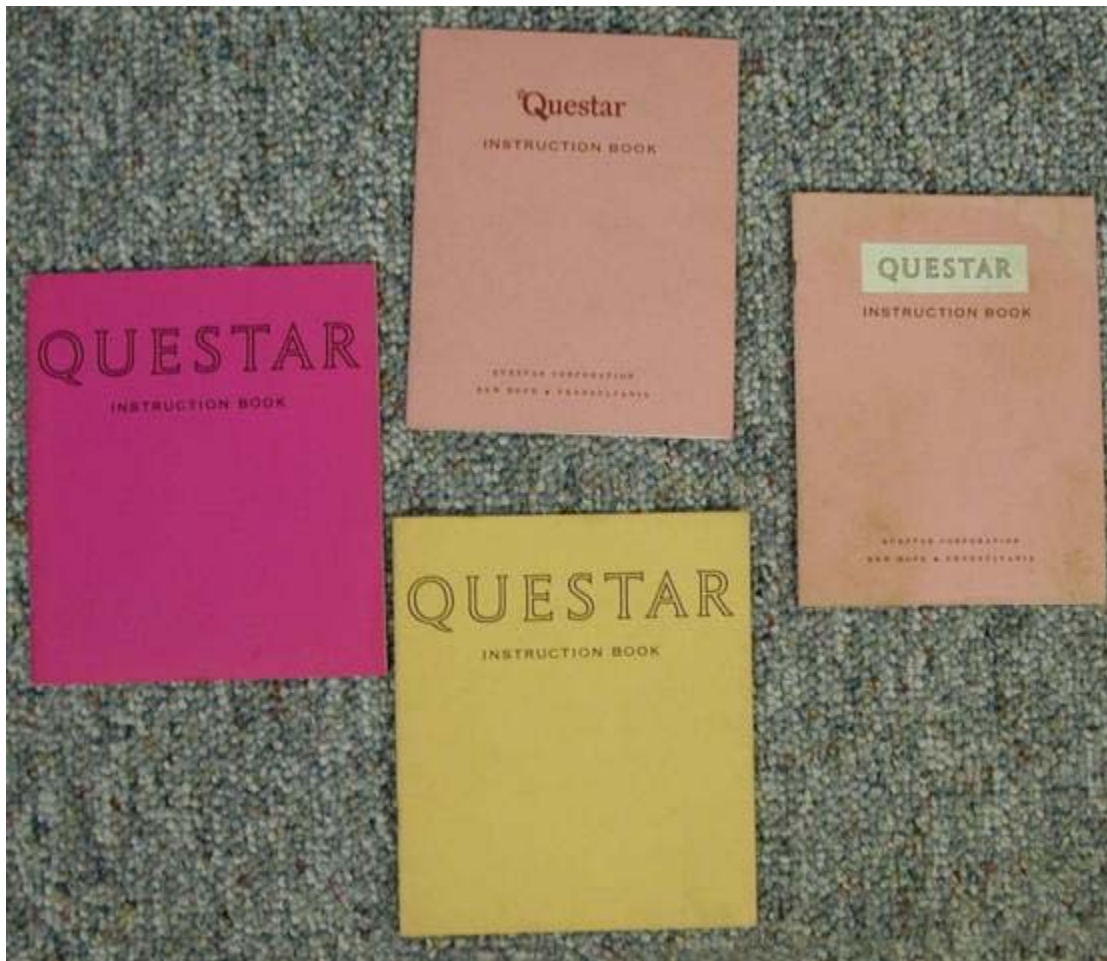
SPECIAL YELLOW CAP FOR FINDER LENS WHEN USING SUN FILTER.

Finder Mirror with ~~one~~ ~~side~~ ~~of~~ ~~is~~ ~~set~~ ~~on~~ ~~same~~. Adjust it for coincidence at infinity, remembering that due to parallax, center of finder field will be about 1 inch low for near objects.

Car Attachment Screws, shown here as they are carried, filling two front leg holes in base. The pull out and are screwed into two threaded hole that fit them in bottom of base, acting as rubber covered hooks to hang scope from top of car window glass without clipping glass. To avoid cracking window, do not tighten more than gently firm. Screws are long enough to span metal-framed glass of convertibles and hardtops. Raise or lower window to convenient observing height. Threaded hole in base may be used to affix Questar to permanent mounting or heavy tripod when desired.



Over a period of time Questar has had a number of Instruction Books for use of its Standard and Duplex Telescopes and I believe Field Model Telescopes. I am showing below 4 different instruction books from the 1960s and early 1970s.



12

9 3

6

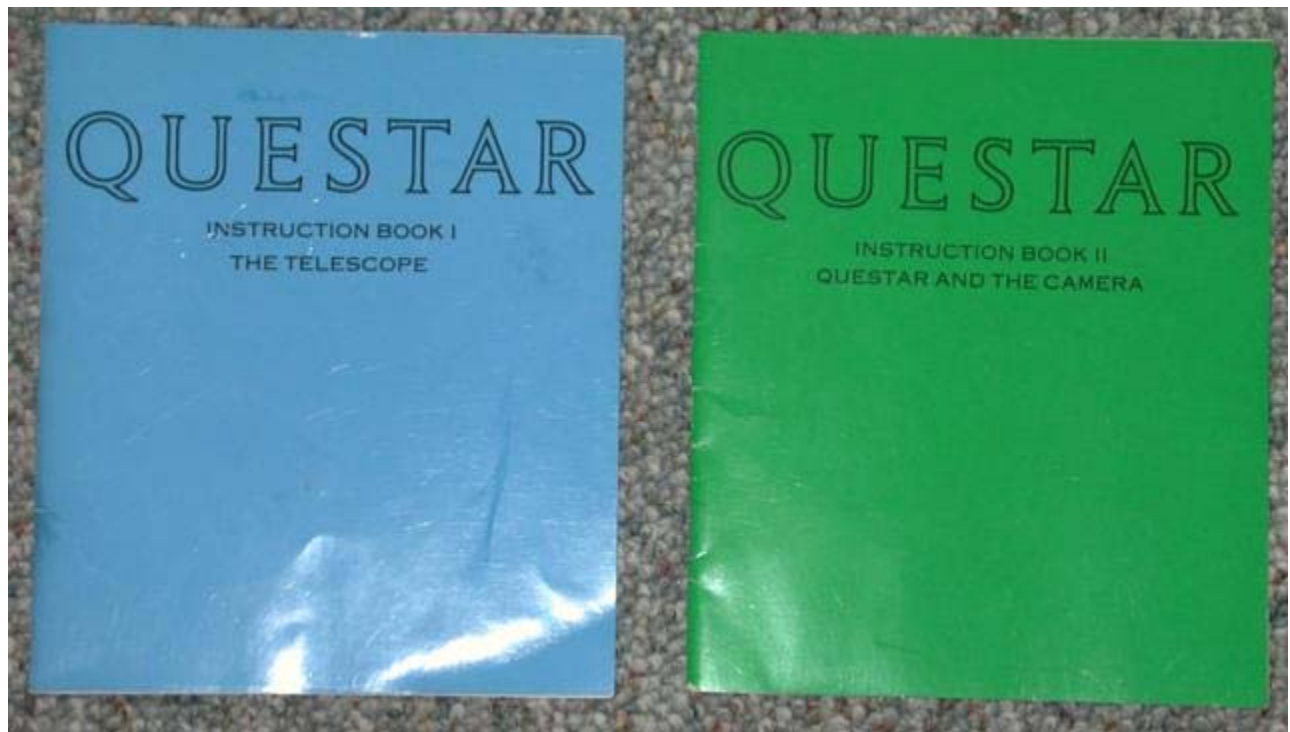
The book in the 12 position is from a 1961 Questar Standard and has 16 numbered pages and measures 5 ½" by 7". There is an un-numbered page before page 1 and one un-numbered page after page 16. I would think this book was first issued before 1961

The book in the 3 position is from a 1963 Questar Standard and has 26 numbered pages and is also 5 ½" by 7", I have been told the white sticker covers up the Questar logo as seen in the instruction book in the 12 position. Apparently Questar was changing its logo and this was the new style. I have another copy of this book which came with a 1965 Standard Questar. This book was most likely first issued after 1961. I believe there must be a copy of this book without the white sticker. But have not heard or seen of a copy.

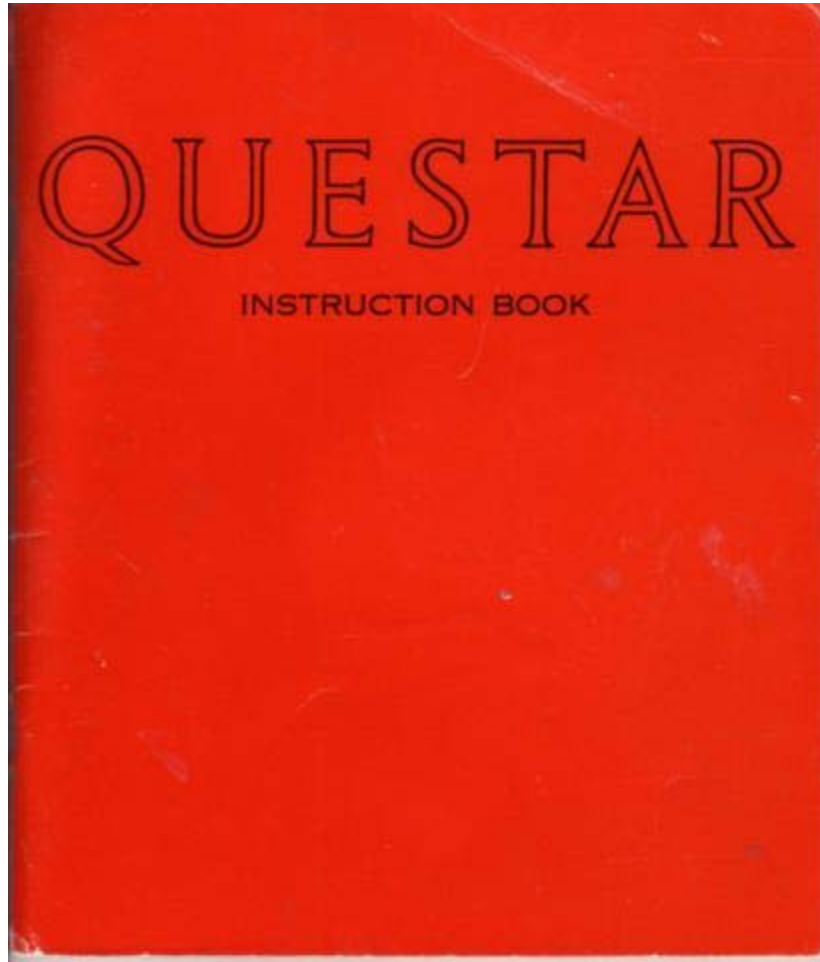
The book in the 6 position is from a 1967 Questar Standard and also seen with a 1962 Questar Standard (was probably not original). This Instruction Book is 6" by 7", has a glossy cover and 29 numbered pages. I have also come across another version of this book that has 31 numbered pages. I would think that the 29 page booklet came out in late 1966 as the Questar Duplex in pictured in it. The Questar 7 is mentioned in the 31 page book so this book probably dates from mid 1969.

The book in the 9 position is from a 1973 Questar Standard. This also has a glossy cover and is also 6" by 7" but has 33 numbered pages. This book has a copyright of 1973.

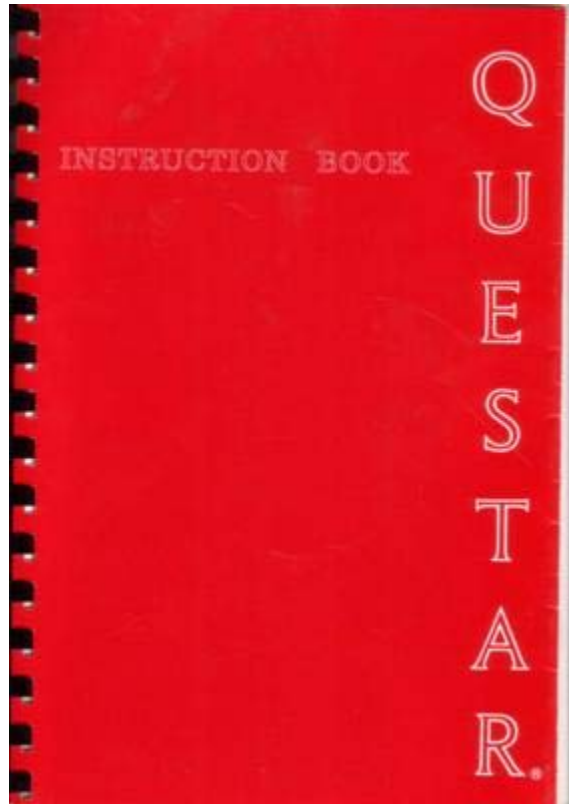
Questar also issued a 2 volume Instruction Book set. The first is the Questar Instruction Book I - The Telescope and Questar Instruction Book II - Questar and the Camera. Both books are 6" by 7" and have 22 numbered pages. These books are copyright 1976. This book has the same type of glossy cover as seen in the two previous Questar Instruction Books.



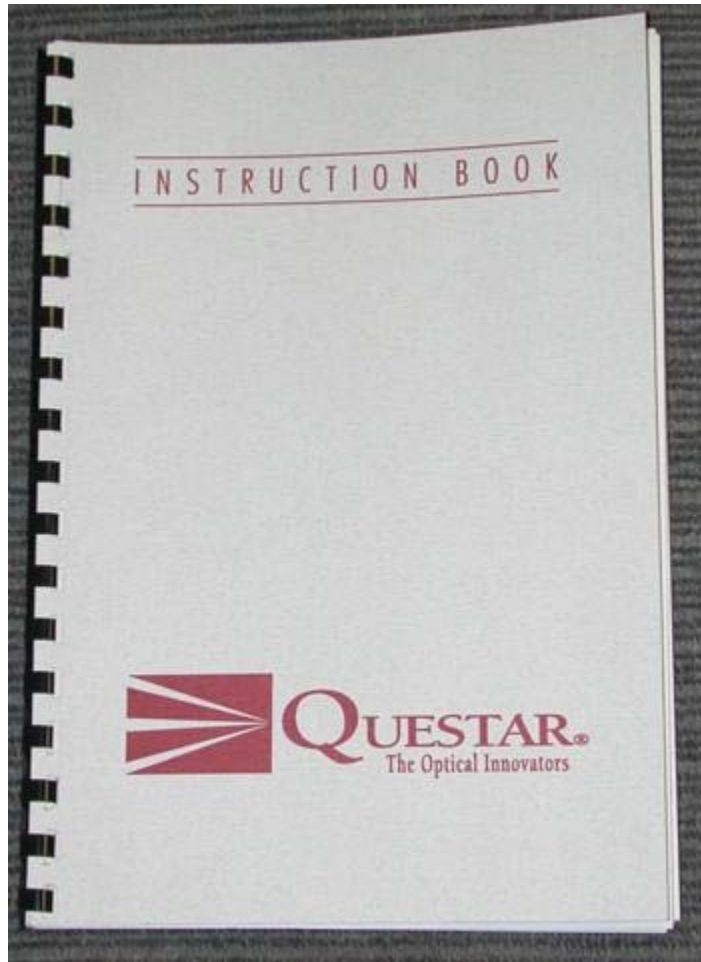
In 1987 Questar published an instruction book that is the same size as the books above but has 41 numbered pages



I believe that some time in the middle to late 1990's a new Questar Instruction book was issued that had 86 pages with sections A thru M. This Questar Instruction Book is 6 ½" by 9 ½". On the Table of contents page it says 'Edition 1'.



Questar issued its present size Instruction Book, which is also 6 1/2" by 9 1/2", in April of 2000. There have been two versions that I am aware of. Both editions look the same on the outside. The April 2000 book has 80 numbered pages. The book pictured below has 91 numbered pages and says it is revised March 2002.



Below is a picture of all the Questar Instruction Books together so you can get a feel of the size of each book



As usual if you find any mistakes or omissions please let me know. I am always looking to buy Questar literature. If you have any please contact me.

© Ralph Foss

Last updated September 20, 2008